

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) An image forming apparatus capable of forming images on both surfaces of a recording medium, said image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier; and

an image transferring device including a first and a second intermediate image transfer body whose surfaces are endlessly movable in contact with each other while forming a nip therebetween, said image transferring device being configured to transfer, while conveying the recording medium nipped by said nip toward a side downstream of said nip in a direction in which said surfaces are endlessly movable, a first toner image transferred from said image carrier to said second intermediate image transfer body via said first intermediate image transfer body beforehand to a first surface of said recording medium and transfer a second toner image transferred from said image carrier to said first intermediate image transfer body to a second surface of said recording medium;

wherein first-surface image transferring means and second-surface image transferring means for respectively transferring the first toner image and the second toner image to the first surface and the second surface of the recording medium, respectively, comprise two pairs of conductive rollers that face each other via the surfaces of said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body at the nip, and

wherein two of said conductive rollers associated with said second intermediate image transfer body comprise transfer rollers respectively applied with one and the other of biases  $a$  and  $b$  of opposite polarities.

2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bias  $a$ , opposite in polarity to toner, is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biases  $a$  and  $b$  applied to said two transfer rollers at the nip are related as:

$$a + b \neq 0$$

4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein assuming that the biases  $a$  and  $b$  are respectively applied to said transfer rollers respectively positioned at an upstream side and a downstream side in a direction in which the recording medium is conveyed, then said bias  $a$  is opposite in polarity to toner while said bias  $b$  is of a same polarity as the toner, and wherein said biases  $a$  and  $b$  are related as:

$$|a| > |b|$$

5. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the bias  $a$ , opposite in polarity to toner, is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

6. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the conductive rollers, facing said transfer rollers, each comprise either one of an electrode roller and a ground roller.

7. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the biases  $a$  and  $b$  applied to said two transfer rollers at the nip are related as:

$$a + b \neq 0$$

8. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein assuming that the biases  $a$  and  $b$  are respectively applied to said transfer rollers respectively positioned at an upstream side and a downstream side in a direction in which the recording medium is conveyed, then said bias  $a$  is opposite in polarity to toner while said bias  $b$  is of a same polarity as the toner, and wherein said biases  $a$  and  $b$  are related as:

$$|a| > |b|$$

9. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the bias  $a$ , opposite in polarity to toner, is variable in accordance with a kind of the recording medium.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~In an~~ An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image carrier and a first and a second intermediate image transfer body, and  
~~capable of transferring~~ configured to transfer a toner image, ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said second intermediate image transfer body via said first intermediate image transfer body beforehand ~~[[,]]~~ and from said second intermediate image transfer body to one surface of a recording medium, and further configured to transfer ~~transferring~~ a toner image, ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said first intermediate image transfer body ~~[[,]]~~ and from said first intermediate image transfer body to the other surface of said recording medium,

first image transferring means disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body for transferring said toner image present on said first intermediate image transfer body to either one of said second intermediate image transfer body and said other surface of said recording medium is ~~disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body~~, and

second image transferring means disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body for transferring the toner image present on said second intermediate image transfer body to said one surface of said recording medium ~~is disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body~~,

wherein facing rollers, respectively facing said first and second image transferring means, each is disposed in the intermediate image transfer body where the respectively faced image transferring means is not disposed.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein a charge applied to said first image transferring means ~~disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body~~ and a charge applied to said second image transferring means ~~disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body~~ are of a same polarity, which is opposite to a polarity of toner.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers whose circumferential surfaces are spaced by a distance of 5 mm or above, preferably 10 mm or above.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein conductive rollers, respectively facing said image transferring means, each ~~[[are]]~~ is disposed in one of

the ~~[[other]]~~ first and second intermediate image transfer ~~[[body]]~~ bodies and grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers, and wherein each of said transfer rollers and the conductive roller facing said transfer roller are pressed against each other via said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body while overlapping each other in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

16. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

17. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein an angle between a line virtually connecting axes of said transfer roller and said conductive roller, facing each other,

or axes of said transfer rollers, facing each other, and the direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other lies in a range of  $90 \pm 30^\circ$ .

18. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

19. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

21. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

22. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

23. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers whose circumferential surfaces are spaced by a distance of 5 mm or above, preferably 10 mm or above.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first and second image transferring means each comprise a transfer roller formed of rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

26. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~In an~~ An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image carrier and a first and a second intermediate image transfer body, and  
~~capable of transferring~~ configured to transfer a toner image, ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said second intermediate image transfer body via said first intermediate image transfer body beforehand ~~[[,]]~~ and from said second intermediate image transfer body to one surface of a recording medium, and further configured to transfer ~~transferring~~ a toner image, ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said first intermediate image transfer body ~~[[,]]~~ and

from said first intermediate image transfer body to the other surface of said recording medium,

first image transferring means disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body for transferring said toner image present on said first intermediate image transfer body to either one of said second intermediate image transfer body and said other surface of said recording medium ~~is disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body~~, and

second image transferring means disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body for transferring said toner image present on said second intermediate image transfer body to said one surface of said recording medium ~~is disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body~~

wherein facing rollers, respectively facing said first and second image transferring means, each is disposed in the intermediate image transfer body where the respectively faces image transferring means is not disposed.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body and a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body are of a same polarity, which is identical with a polarity of toner.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers whose circumferential surfaces are spaced by a distance of 5 mm or above, preferably 10 mm or above.



30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein conductive rollers, respectively facing said image transferring means, each ~~[[are]]~~ is disposed in one of the ~~[[other]]~~ first and second intermediate image transfer ~~[[body]]~~ bodies and grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers, and wherein each of said transfer rollers and the conductive roller facing said transfer roller are pressed against each other via said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body while overlapping each other in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

33. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

34. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein an angle between a line virtually connecting axes of said transfer roller and said conductive roller, facing each other, or axes of said transfer rollers, facing each other, and the direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other lies in a range of  $90 \pm 30^\circ$ .

35. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

36. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

38. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

39. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

40. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers whose circumferential surfaces are spaced by a distance of 5 mm or above, preferably 10 mm or above.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said first and second image transferring means each comprise a transfer roller formed of rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

43. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~In an~~ An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image carrier and a first and a second intermediate image transfer body, and  
~~capable of transferring~~ configured to transfer a toner image, ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said second intermediate image transfer body via said first intermediate image

transfer body beforehand [[,]] and from said second intermediate image transfer body to one surface of a recording medium, and further configured to transfer ~~transferring~~ a toner image; ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said first intermediate image transfer body [[,]] and from said first intermediate image transfer body to the other surface of said recording medium,

first image transferring means disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body for transferring said toner image present on said first intermediate image transfer body to either one of said second intermediate image transfer body and said other surface of said recording medium, and

second image transferring means disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body for transferring said toner image present on said second intermediate image transfer body to said one surface of said recording medium ~~both are disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body.~~

45. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein a portion of said apparatus including said second intermediate image transfer body is openable away from a body of said apparatus.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein conductive rollers, respectively facing said first and second image transferring means, each are disposed in the ~~other~~ intermediate image transfer body where the respectively faced image transferring means is not disposed and grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means.

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers, and wherein each of said transfer rollers and the conductive roller facing said transfer roller are pressed against each other via said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body while overlapping each other in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other.

48. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

49. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

50. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein an angle between a line virtually connecting axes of said transfer roller and said conductive roller, facing each other, or axes of said transfer rollers, facing each other, and the direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other lies in a range of  $90 \pm 30^\circ$ .

51. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

52. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

53. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first and second image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

54. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

55. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

56. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 55, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

57. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said first and second image transferring means comprise transfer rollers whose circumferential surfaces are spaced by a distance of 5 mm or above, preferably 10 mm or above.

58. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said first and second image transferring means each comprise a transfer roller formed of rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

59. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 58, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

60. (Currently Amended) ~~In an~~ An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image carrier and a first and a second intermediate image transfer body to each of which a toner image is transferred from said image carrier, and ~~capable of transferring~~  
configured to transfer toner images ~~transferred~~ to said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body to opposite sides of a recording sheet,

image transferring means for transferring said toner images from said first intermediate image transfer body and said intermediate image transfer body to said recording medium, said image transferring means being ~~are~~ disposed in ~~either~~ one of said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body,

wherein facing rollers facing said image transferring means are disposed in the intermediate image transfer body where said image transferring means is not disposed.

61. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein conductive rollers, respectively facing said image transferring means, each ~~[[are]]~~ is disposed in one of the ~~[[other]]~~ first and second intermediate image transfer ~~[[body]]~~ bodies and grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means.

62. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said image transferring means ~~comprise~~ comprises transfer rollers, and wherein each of said transfer rollers and the conductive roller facing said transfer roller are pressed against each other via said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body while overlapping each other in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other.

63. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

64. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer



rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

65. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein an angle between a line virtually connecting axes of said transfer roller and said conductive roller, facing each other, or axes of said transfer rollers, facing each other, and the direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other lies in a range of  $90 \pm 30^\circ$ .

66. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 62, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

67. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 66, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

68. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

69. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer

rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

70. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 61, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$  or below.

71. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 70, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

72. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein said image transferring means ~~comprise~~ comprises transfer rollers whose circumferential surfaces are spaced by a distance of 5 mm or above, preferably 10 mm or above.

73. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein said image transferring means ~~each comprise~~ comprises a transfer roller formed of rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$  or below.

74. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

75. (Currently Amended) ~~In an~~ An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image carrier and a first and a second intermediate image transfer body to each of which a toner image is transferred from said image carrier, and ~~capable of transferring~~ and configured to transfer toner images ~~transferred~~ to said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body to opposite sides of a recording sheet,

image transferring means for transferring said toner images from said first intermediate image transfer body and said intermediate image transfer body to said recording medium, said image transferring means being ~~are~~ disposed in either said first intermediate image transfer body ~~and~~ or said second intermediate image transfer body,

wherein facing rollers facing said image transferring means are disposed in the intermediate image transfer body where said image transferring means is not disposed.

76. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein conductive rollers, respectively facing said image transferring means, each ~~[[are]]~~ is disposed in one of the ~~[[other]]~~ first and second intermediate image transfer ~~[[body]]~~ bodies and grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means.

77. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said image transferring means ~~comprise~~ comprises transfer rollers, and wherein each of said transfer rollers and the conductive roller facing said transfer roller are pressed against each other via said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body while overlapping each other in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other.

78. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

79. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

80. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein an angle between a line virtually connecting axes of said transfer roller and said conductive roller, facing each other, or axes of said transfer rollers, facing each other, and the direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other lies in a range of  $90 \pm 30^\circ$ .

81. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$  or below.

82. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 81, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

83. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

84. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

85. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 76, wherein said conductive roller comprises a roller formed of metal, resin or rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$  or below.

86. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

87. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein said image transferring means ~~comprise~~ comprises transfer rollers whose circumferential surfaces are spaced by a distance of 5 mm or above, preferably 10 mm or above.

88. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 75, wherein said image transferring means ~~each comprise~~ comprises a transfer roller formed of rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$  or below.

89. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 88, further comprising a conductive roller and wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.

90. (Currently Amended) ~~In an~~ An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image carrier and a first and a second intermediate image transfer body, and ~~capable of transferring~~ configured to transfer a toner image, ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said second intermediate image transfer body via said first intermediate image transfer body beforehand ~~[[,]]~~ and from said second intermediate image transfer body to one surface of a recording medium, and further configured to transfer ~~transferring~~ a toner image, ~~transferred~~ from said image carrier to said first intermediate image transfer body ~~[[,]]~~ and from said first intermediate image transfer body to the other surface of said recording medium,

first image transferring means disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body for transferring said toner image present on said first intermediate image transfer body to said second intermediate image transfer body ~~is disposed in said second intermediate image transfer body,~~

second image transferring means disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body for transferring the toner image present on said first intermediate image transfer body to said other surface of said recording medium ~~is disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body,~~ and

third image transferring means disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body for transferring said toner image present on said second intermediate image transfer body to

said one surface of said recording medium is ~~disposed in said first intermediate image transfer body.~~

91. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said image transferring means comprise transfer rollers,

wherein the transfer roller for transferring the toner image from said first intermediate image transfer body to said second intermediate image transfer body and the transfer roller for transferring said toner image from said second intermediate image transfer body to the one surface of the recording medium face each other,

wherein a conductive roller, facing the transfer roller for transferring the toner image from said first intermediate image transfer body to the other surface of the recording medium, is disposed in the ~~other~~ first intermediate image transfer body, and

wherein said transfer rollers facing each other or said transfer roller and said conductive roller facing each other are pressed against each other via said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body while overlapping each other in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other.

92. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 91, wherein said conductive roller is grounded or applied with a charge opposite in polarity to a charge applied to said first, second, and third image transferring means, and wherein when one of said transfer rollers, facing each other, is used as a transfer roller, the other transfer roller is grounded.

93. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 91, wherein said transfer roller and said conductive roller disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body or said transfer rollers disposed in a same intermediate image transfer body have circumferential surfaces spaced from each other by a distance of 5 mm to 200 mm, preferably 10 mm to 100 mm.

94. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 91, wherein an angle between a line virtually connecting axes of said transfer roller and said conductive roller, facing each other, or axes of said transfer rollers, facing each other, and the direction in which said first intermediate image transfer body and said second intermediate image transfer body move in contact with each other lies in a range of  $90 \pm 30^\circ$ .

95. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 90, wherein said first, second, and third image transferring means each comprise a transfer roller formed of rubber and having a resistance as low as  $10^9 \Omega \text{cm}$  or below.

96. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein when said transfer roller and said conductive roller each comprise a roller formed of resin or rubber, said resin or said rubber forms a 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm thick layer.